

**July 2, 2025**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Dominic DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
Ron Etling	Portage County Commissioners Appointee
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Eric Gorczynski	Kent City Health Department
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Alex Pitts	City of Massillon
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Julie Reis	Summit County Public Health
Amy Reichlin	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Tom Sanderson	City of Canton
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Pete Wearstler	City of Alliance
Ashika Adhikari	City of Akron
Sarah Clutter	City of Canton
Stephanie Deibel	Summit County Engineer's Office
Will Duck	Portage County Health District
Patrick Gsellman	Environmental Design Group/Akron Waterways Renewed!
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Rome Marinelli	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

**In the absence of Chair Kastner, Vice Chair Rutledge called the meeting to order.**

**Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**Meeting Summary**

The June meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

**Discussion Item**

*"MWCD Funding Opportunities"*; Rome Marinelli, Watershed Coordinator, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Mr. Marinelli gave a PowerPoint presentation on the five types of grants that are available through the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, what each grant offers, and considerations for each grant:

- Partners in Watershed Management: Up to 100 percent in reimbursement to political subdivisions, Section 501 non-profits, and other groups for streambank stabilization and flood reduction projects in the district; application deadline: **September 1, 2025**.
- The Debris Removal Program: Up to \$20,000 of the cost to political subdivisions, Section 501 non-profits, and other groups to remove debris fields and log jams from rivers and streams

with a 10 percent match requirement; **no application deadline** but requests are handled on a first come, first served basis.

- The Design Assistance Program: Up to \$20,000 in reimbursement to political subdivisions, Section 501 non-profits, and other groups for small scale designs for water quality improvements, flood capacity and mitigation efforts, wetland development, stream restoration, green space development and stormwater management projects; **no application deadline** but requests are handled on a first come, first served basis.
- Environmental Stewardship: Up to \$25,000 per project to political subdivisions, Section 501 non-profits, and other groups to address critical areas within the Muskingum River watershed and to contribute to environmental conservation; application deadline: July 15<sup>th</sup> but it is expected to be available next year.
- NPS-IS Development Fund: Up to \$10,000 to political subdivisions, Section 501 non-profits, park districts, and regional councils of government per nonpoint source implementation strategy (NPS-IS) for hydrologic unit code-12 (HUC-12) watersheds (needed for Section 319 grant eligibility requirements); application deadline: **August 8, 2025**.

After his presentation, Mr. Marinelli fielded many questions from the ERTAC. At the request of Ms. Kiper, he offered to make his slides available to anyone requesting to see them.

### **NEFCO FY2026 Work Program**

*Ongoing FY2026 201/208 FPA update; status after the MAs' June 25<sup>th</sup> draft submittal deadline*

Mr. LaPlante reported that By June 25<sup>th</sup>, all four MAs participating in the update had submitted their draft graphics for a combined total of more than 400 parcels or combinations of parcels with proposed wastewater treatment prescription changes and/or FPA boundary modifications. He noted that they also had submitted their required draft written prescriptions before June 25<sup>th</sup>. He added that NEFCO staff is currently reviewing the draft graphics and prescription text and notifying the participating MAs of any needed revisions to these, noting that the MAs have already begun to make needed revisions and they have until July 18<sup>th</sup> to submit their complete update packages to NEFCO.

*Clean Water (208) Plan's Chapter 5 update; status and scope for this chapter update in this fiscal year's contracts with Ohio EPA*

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC that Chapter 5 of the 208 Plan covers "Management of Nonpoint Source Pollution and Stormwater Runoff", and its last update was in 2011. He noted that the update of this chapter began during the last state fiscal year, and it will continue in FY2026. He summarized what's been completed for this chapter update to date and noted that NEFCO's SFY2026 contracts with Ohio EPA call for the completion of an update to Chapter 5, including a review by the ERTAC. He reiterated that the Chapter 5 update is an opportunity for the region to tell staff what's needed in this chapter; what it should contain.

*FY2025 201/208 FPA update, and Sterling FPA amendment submitted to Ohio EPA in January, next steps for state certification*

Mr. LaPlante reported that Ohio EPA has indicated that it reviewed and prepared for public notification the 208 Plan updates submitted by NEFCO, NOACA, Eastgate, and TMACOG for the calendar year 2024. He noted that for NEFCO, this includes last year's FY2025 FPA update for the region and the Sterling FPA amendment to create the new Sterling FPA in north-central Wayne County. He added that Ohio EPA has indicated that the public notice and start of the comment period is expected by early this month, and the agency anticipates state certification and U.S. EPA approval of the Plan updates in September 2025.

### **Reports from ERTAC members (a chance for members to report on activities or problems affecting their communities)**

There were no reports from ERTAC members.

**Information items requested**

Mr. Etling requested copies of selected information items.

**Ohio Environmental Legislation**

Mr. LaPlante noted that Mr. Hadley listed HB 307 on the agenda to ensure the ERTAC that he is monitoring it. HB 307 was introduced in the House in May to establish a program regarding lead service line replacement and to name this act the Lead Line Replacement Act. The bill is currently in the House Development Committee where it had its first hearing on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Ohio EPA Public Notices requested**

There were no Ohio EPA Public notices requested.

**Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**ERTAC Contact Hour Course List**

Vice Chair Rutledge drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

**Next Meeting**

Vice Chair Rutledge said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on **August 6, 2025** at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.